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Sarah Bracher to H A & H E Hall, 16 March 1896

“Woodside”
Golden Sgre
Bendigo
Mar 16th /96

My two dear Nephews

Thank you very much for the very handsome present of the black silk dress so kindly forwarded by your dear Mother it is really the very thing I often wished for so I think I am highly favored. Your dear Ma & Joy send lots of love & wish me to say they are well & quite enjoying themselves. Joy is now getting her usual morning practice on the Piano, she is getting on very well too with her drawing for which she has natural ability & plenty of patience which is so necessary in all studies. The weather is now cool & pleasant & the gardens are really looking well although we have had an unusually hot dry summer. No doubt the decided change will do your dear Mother & sister very much good they are looking very well I am glad to tell you, we have many nice chats about old friends & places it is quite refreshing to me & reminds me of my young days. We all feel sorry you have such a hot climate to contend with I am sure it must undermine the health & strength of all who have to endure it, I do hope that you may so prosper that you can if you wish at some future time change your place of abode, I don't think yr dear Mother is much in love with Cossack so we will hope for the best our times are in the Hands of our All Wise Father who loves us & over rules for our good [---] though we cannot always see what is best [for] us if we look to Him He has promised to guide & keep us lifes journey through & after this life to take us to the Mansions He has prepared for those who *love & trust Him for Salvation*, may it be our happiness to meet in glory where so many of our loved ones have gone before. It is terrible to read of the massacres of so many thousands of people in other parts of the world I often think how thankful we in Australia ought to be who live in a land of peace & plenty. Thanks for the Papers, I have sent you the *Southern Cross* it is considered one of the best Papers of its kind & we find it very instructive & interesting.

With much love from [?all]

Your affectionate A[unt]

S L H Bracher